Shillingstone Parish Council

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING - PORTMAN HALL - 12-05-2022 MINUTES

The Chairman of Shillingstone Parish Council welcomed all to the meeting.

Chairman’s Annual Report

The Chairman thanked all who had assisted during the year, including the current Council, Footpaths Officer Graham Rains and former Chairmen Malcolm Webberley and Cllr Lesley Gasson

**Financial Overview**

The Chairman explained the PC’s sources of income in the year:

Precept - £ 32250

Other Income - £ 8,813

**TOTAL - £ 41,063**

And the main items of spending in the year, above and beyond regular operational costs:

**TOTAL SPENDING - £ 39,657**

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Expenditure** | **Amount** | **Source** |
| Bench Seat | **£                  501**  | Reserves |
| Defibrillators & Cabinets | **£              3,458**  | Donated funds |
| Mower Shed Repair | **£              1,500**  | Reserves |
| Noticeboard | **£                  388**  | Reserves |
| SID posts | **£                  354**  | Reserves |
| Village Gates | **£              4,006**  | Reading Room reserve |
| War Memorial Restoration  | **£              1,440**  | Reserve/grant |

The Chairman explained that the Village Traffic survey had been significant event during the year and had highlighted area of concern that the PC is in the course of attempting to resolve for the benefit of the Village.

The issues being addressed are:

* School crossing signage
* The extension of the 30 mph zone the Little Lane crossing
* Speeding in Shillingstone Lane

Regular meetings are held with the Community Highways Officer and considerable progress has been made in the year.

The PC has been granted a licence to plant bulbs throughout the village and the Community Speedwatch Team is being reactivated with the support of the Parish Council.

All councillors have now been allocated an area of responsibilities and report to the Council accordingly.

The Parish Council has financially supported various Village services including the Parish Magazine, the Churchyard and Shillingstone Youth Club

Planning is a major concern in the village and the PC has complained to Dorset Council regarding the new process whereby ‘neighbour notices’ are no longer sent to local residents. The PC has also engaged with and joined the Dorset Deserves Better campaign for a review of the Local Plan for housing in Dorset.

The PC has also held discussions with Dorset Council concerning the significant issue of electric vehicle charging points; there are over 90 homes in the Village without off street parking for whom charging electric vehicles will be a major future concern. The serious concerns relating to the relative cost of on street charging compared with home charging and this issue needs to be clarified.

North Dorset Railway

Jon Jenkins and Tony Ward introduced two be=vet interesting films: one showing the history of the Railway Project over the 30 or so years that have been spent restoring the station, the track and rolling stock, and another explaining the track extension to Lamb House Bridge and the Trailway diversion.

Jon noted that there are now some 80 volunteers working on the project.

Shillingstone Bee- Keepers

Lesley Gasson introduced slides showing the issues that have concerned the bee-keepers over many years in order to get to their hives to the Forum School site – including crossing the main road with heavy equipment.

These difficulties have prompted the bee-keepers to develop plans for a purpose-built facility at Holloway Farm, over 4.5 acres, which will enable visitors to take part in safe viewing of bees and provide excellent facilities for extracting and cleaning the honey.

Lesley has been working with prisoners from Guys Marsh to developed life skills for the future and they hope to be working with other local groups.

Lavender Farm Project

Jo O’Connell provided an overview of the history of the Lavender Farm project, from its origins in a four-acre field at Fiddleford, and which had been developed over 9 years before the site owners required the project to leave.

After a protracted period of negotiation, they have secured a new site at Holoway Farm ,near woodland, which is now providing experiences for people of all ages to improve their life skills and training. New polytunnels have been installed and vegetable plots established.

There are now 11 regular visitors and others and the project is providing great mental health benefits for local young people

Big Yellow Bus Project

Paul Willaims provided a superb photographic montage of the progress made at the BYB project. The site has many new features including a coulor coded notice board, cider apple trees, bees & honey, a patio area, an observation platform and polytunnels providing stock for the Sturminster Newton an Blandford Forum Foodbank

The site now hosts craft groups and parties and special events throughout the year.

Bere Marsh Farm

Andy Fale provided a brief update on the workings of Bere Marsh Farm, explaining that the restoration of this to a 1950’s working farm is not a realistic idea. The farm is now in a ‘farm cluster’ and this means it is pursuing a co-ordinated approval to conservation and increasing bio diversity. Many volunteers have assisted with hedge laying and installing bird boxes

**David Green**

**Parish Clerk 13/05/2022**